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The Secret Spy War

U. S. Is a Paradise for Espionage Rings; Russian Agents Are Many and Dangerous

First of Two Articles

By HARRY FERGUSON

Washington, June 1 — The Federal Bureau of Investigation has infiltrated the Communist Party in the United States so thoroughly that there was as much truth as there was humor in a recent cartoon on the subject.

It depicted a leader of a Communist cell opening a meeting with this remark: "Comrades and members of the FBI."

A current joke around Washington is that the Communist Party is largely supported by dues paid by FBI agents posing as Reds.

But that does not mean Moscow does not have spies scat-

tered all through this nation. It merely means that the Russians are now using professional agents rather than members of the U. S. Communist Party. There are many of them and they are highly dangerous.

America is a paradise for foreign agents because we live in an open society. Information is freely available here—information that would require years of hard digging to acquire any place beyond the Iron and Bamboo Curtains.

Big Spenders

About three years ago Russian agents in this country were authorized to spend as much as \$50,000 to get blue prints of American port facilities. They merely went to the Government Printing Office and bought publications issued by the U. S. Army Engineers.

An FBI agent once counted 30 known Communists attending a scientific lecture and taking notes.

Russia probably spends \$2 billion a year on espionage. The spy organization is called the State Security Service (KGB). It is big, tough and expert, and Americans whose duty it is to combat it have a healthy respect for the enemy.

Allen W. Dulles, former head of the Central Intelligence Agency and probably the most efficient espionage man in the United States, says of the KGB:

"It is a multi-purpose, clandestine arm of power that can in the last analysis carry out almost any act that the Soviet leadership assigns to it."

Many Uses

"It is an instrument for sub-

version, manipulation and violence; for secret intervention in the affairs of other nations. It is an aggressive arm of Soviet ambitions in the cold war. If the Soviets send astronauts to the moon, I expect a KGB officer will accompany them."

Dulles says every Russian organization outside the Soviet Union is loaded with KGB agents — embassies, legations, trade missions, technical advisers and even the United Nations delegation. In some embassies the KGB agent may be a chauffeur, but he gives orders to the ambassador.

Russians are natural born conspirators and they make excellent espionage agents. One man who knows what he is talking about says that at the height of the Stalin terror one Russian out of five was spying on somebody.

Dedicated and Ruthless

The men in the top echelons of the KGB are dedicated and ruthless. During World War II the sister of V. S. Abakumov, a Soviet intelligence chief, was arrested for speculating in the black market. The case was referred to Abakumov, who instantly wrote out this order: "Speculation during war time is treason. Shoot her."

The Russians are experts in lining up Americans to obtain information. The other day Robert G. Thompson, a former member of the U. S. Air Force, was sentenced to 30 years in prison for passing secrets to the KGB while stationed in Berlin. It turned out that the Russians had paid him less than \$300 a year for six years.

One Russian agent was re-

cruited when he was found riding on a train without a ticket. The KGB thought he had special qualifications and offered him a choice of joining up or going to prison for 25 years for violating the railroad rules. He joined.

Careful Training

Moscow trains its agents carefully. Capt. Nikolai Khokhlov, who defected to the Americans in 1954, said he was thoroughly trained in judo, the use of small arms and the fast driving of an automobile. One special weapon used by the Russians was a pistol about four inches long with three barrels in vertical alignment. The pistol was accurate at 25 feet and the sound of the shot was no louder than the snapping of your fingers.

In the field of international espionage nobody wins all the time. The Russians have had some stunning successes, but they also suffer from occasional defections. One of the most damaging was Igor Gouzenko, who walked out of the Soviet embassy in Ottawa one day and turned over to Canadian authorities all the Russian codes and ciphers.

Walter Krivitsky, chief of Russian espionage in Holland, defected to the West and there is positive proof that he was carrying important information. It was so important that Russian agents were sent to the United States to kill Krivitsky and they accomplished their mission in a hotel room here in Washington.

Tomorrow: What we do to the Communists.